

NEW

Victoria Bell

NEW is new work exploring identity and location through the surveying of my artistic and familial past.

Inherited collections have imbued my senses with an attraction to and relationship with the Asia Pacific. 'What does it mean to be living in the Pacific Rim of Anglo-Saxon blood but to have a closer affinity to the Southern Hemisphere?'

Tracing these collections has revealed the strong, matrilineal history, underpinning my making. As handlers of cloth and adornment, the women of my family have carefully conserved our material history. From glory boxes beneath silk and pearl, have shell lei been retrieved.

To lay these objects open leads to;

a line
a loop
a boat
a voyage
an island

Artist Bio:

Victoria Bell

Born 1976

Auckland, New Zealand

Lives and works in Dunedin, New Zealand

Canterbury artist Victoria Bell was the Olivia Spencer Bower Award recipient in 2005. In 2004 she successfully exhibited the monumental *Peacock Fountain*, at the Centre of Contemporary Art, Christchurch. This work was a participant of The New Zealand Community Trust Art & Industry Urban Arts Biennial 04, *SCAPE from a different angle*. In the same year, her collaborative show with Victoria Edwards, entitled *Dear Victoria*, was exhibited at The Physics Room. Other outings include; *POPuluxe*, a group show curated by Andrew Paul Wood at Jonathan Smart Gallery (Christchurch, 2005), *Trace*, a solo show in the 2002 CoCA Emerging Artist Series and the touring work, *Paper, Scissors, Rock* for Gridlocked, now archived at www.physicsroom.org.nz.

Bell has a Bachelor of Design in Craft Art (2000), from the School of Art & Design at Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology and a Diploma of Fine Arts, Honours level (2002) from the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Design & Arts College of New Zealand (Christchurch).
